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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

The attached material is sent in the belief that it may be of interest:

Reviews of the Local Arabic Press, Beirut, Lebanon.

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MINISTER OF INTERIOR  
BEIRUT, LEBANON

August 9, 1949.

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on August 9, 1949

That in the Bay: (Al-Nahar, August 9, 1949).

Phalangists on guard who fired on pedestrians were sentenced to five months of imprisonment. Commenting on this decision, Al-Nahar says, "Phalangism was never a school for dependence but one for sacrifice. Those who volunteer to serve high ideals expect from the start to face persecution and sacrifice. Comrades! We must follow the path that is narrow if we are to provide salvation for the Fatherland."

Commenting on the same decision of the Court al-Hakam (August 9, 1949) says, "The decision was unexpected for certain circles believed the Court would be partial. It is strange, however, that the Court should consider the possession of arms by the Phalangists to be an act of self-defense, and that it should tolerate the statement made by Shi-Chaila to the effect that his and his wife's men had advised the Phalangists to arm."

A Blessed Awakening: (Al-Nahar, August 9, 1949).

It would seem as though the Syrian Union has begun to take up in view of its proposed meeting on Wednesday, August 11, at the home of Alfred Macoshe in Beirut. By this opposition we mean the National Liberation Bloc and those who are active in its programme of reform.

The Opposition: (al-Rayrak, August 9, 1949).

No national union is possible unless the National Bloc is represented. Genille Chacoun has denied the news that he had met M. Edde and had discussed with him the internal affairs of the Lebanon.

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AL-NAHAR

AMERICAN LEGATION  
BEIRUT, LEBANON

August 11, 1949.

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
appearing on August 11, 1949

A Party for Liberation: (BEIRUT, August 11, 1949).

The National Liberation Bloc meets this afternoon in Sofar to study the conditions against which all Lebanese complain. Could not this Liberation Bloc become a Party for Liberation. Could it not prepare definite programmes for internal and external reform, particularly as it has never been labeled with sectarianism? We are weary of extemporaneous action and of a day of awakening for days of sleep.

The President of the Chamber has set the Seventeenth of August for the first meeting of the Chamber in this extraordinary session. Premier is expected to explain events which will have taken place since end of last session.

Office-Seeking the Key to the Understanding of Party Politics:  
(al-Nawat, August 11, 1949).

Both Government and Opposition are committed to the encouragement of party politics as opposed to ~~pure~~ military action. Unfortunately, however, no party has as yet been organized in a proper manner; and all parties that have appeared have aimed at nothing but control of office and of power.

At This session of Parliament: (al-Nahar, August 11, 1949).

At last Parliament has been invited to sit and to look into about 60 different projects. Why the President of this body has tied up all these projects with the invitation to this session is a question, which only Sabri Bey could answer. All Lebanese know that this Chamber which accomplished nothing in the past can not do anything now. We are interested to see the Chamber discuss the policy which the Government pursued while it was not in session. Let the Government rest assured that in making this plea we mean to save appearances for democracy.

Anxious lest Camille CHAMOUN should lead Opposition in Parliament, Lebanese Government is said to be trying to commission Chamoun to visit Arab capitals before meeting of Political Committee of Arab League.

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WLS:ILM

AMERICAN LEGATION  
BEIRUT, LEBANON

August 12, 1949.

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on August 12, 1949.

Lean Years: (Beirut, August 12, 1949).

Government papers that have launched a severe attack on Liberation Bloc do not deserve our attention. We do hope, however, that the Bofar meeting may lead to practical solutions that would redeem the Lebanon from that in which it has fallen, would bring back peace to the disheartened souls, and would preserve for this land its existence, its wealth, and its peace and justice. We have passed through "six lean years". We must make of the coming six years fat years through political parties that would help to establish free parliaments and courageous governments such as would work for the good of this land.

Where is the Party for National Call? (al-Diyar, August 13, 1949).

Parliaments in parliamentary countries are the source of power and the force for continuity of governments. With us, Parliament is the peaceful, the amenable, and the assentive. And from now until our Parliament becomes what it should be, we shall remain under effect of personal matters whenever an attempt to form a government. Opposition is likewise only a collection of individuals whose chief object is to come to power. As for the nation, it remains in the dictionary of the government a group of individuals who have yielded on their power and their prerogative.

The Syrian Nationalist Party was the only party that tried to reform this mentality. But now, that this Party has disappeared, will the Party of the National Call shake the dust off herself and come to the rescue?

The Trial of Syrian Nationalists: (al-Diyar, August 12, 1949)

Syrian Nationalists in prison are in the opinion of the Government of two categories: Those that participate in the coup de Force and those who did not. As the Courts have disregarded the behavior of the Party before the 14th of June, we do hope that it will be indulgent in its attitude toward those who did not participate in the coup de Force.

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WLS:11M

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

August 16, 1949.

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on August 16, 1949.

BEIRUT

devotes most of its space to the new coup d'etat in Syria. Stating that all the Arabs are closely watching the new developments in Syria which occupies a special position in the Arab countries and the world, the paper explains editorially that it approved of the first coup because it symbolized the innate Arab spirit for struggle and because it wished to give the men of the coup an opportunity to lead Syria along the path of progress, to prepare the Syrians against the Jews, to set an example of upholding the spiritual values demanded by the Palestine calamity, and to revive confidence in the hearts of the anxious and frightened people. But, the editorial continues "we have been taken unawares by a second coup which we trust will realize the hopes that have sprung from the first coup, restore stability in Syria and realize its aspirations for liberty, independence and sound parliamentary life/ Men perish but Syria remains for ever. Undoubtedly, the leaders who have taken over the rule in Syria, headed by Premier Hashim al-Arasi, will bring stability to Syria, will work for the good of the Syrians and the Arabs, will restore the constitutional life and will remember that Israeli is established along their frontiers directly threatening Syria and the Arab reality..... Whatever the cause of this new coup may be, we sincerely hope that the Syrian leaders will benefit from the experiences through which Syria and the Arabs have passed, will safeguard the Arab League - our great national institution - and will march as one body toward stability and reconstruction. This interval is critical, the enemy is only a few steps away from us, and the whole world is watching us. May God protect Syria and Arabism!"

This paper reports that when its correspondent was "leaving the building of the Chief of Staff in Damascus he observed the widow of Antun Sa'ada getting out of the office of Colonel Sami Hannawi. He learned from the Colonel that she had come to thank and congratulate him."

AL-NAYAT

devotes the entire issue to articles and despatches from Damascus and elsewhere reporting the new coup d'etat in Syria/ The general tone of the paper is definitely favorable to the new coup and is highly critical of Husni al-Zaim and his movement. It carries a long editorial regarding the new developments in Damascus in which it strongly censures Husni al-Zaim for his unfriendly attitude toward its chief editor and for his reluctance to work in the interests of Arab unity. The editorial mentions, in this connection, the pressure Husni al-Zaim brought to bear upon the Lebanese newspapers which advocate Arab unity and asserts that it was not Husni

al-Zaim who effected the first coup but the Syrian army itself. It continues:

"Al-Zaim was a nonentity in Syria and his reputation was very low among the militarists. But his presence in the high command caused them to reveal their intentions to him. Thus he joined them and led their movement.

"But most of those who prepared the first coup were junior army officers. When the coup succeeded, al-Zaim confined all the authorities to himself and abandoned his old companions.

"Al-Zaim actually tried to strengthen the army and to provide it with weapons. But he adopted, side by side with this, contradictory policies which harmed the army and weakened the whole of Syria.

"He broke all his promises for reforms. He did not fulfil a single promise. He used terrorism as his weapon and treachery as his motto...Al-Zaim severed all Syria's relations with its Arab neighbors. He alienated it from Transjordan, Iraq and Lebanon for no legitimate reasons. If he restricted his Arab relations to Egypt only, this did not arise from any Arab motive or Syro-Egyptian interests, but from egoistic and materialistic considerations the responsibilities for which should be borne by certain Egyptian quarters before the Arabs and before history.

"Furthermore, he restricted the internal rule to a triumvirate comprising himself, his brother-in-law Nadhir Fansa, and Major Ibrahim al-Husaini all of whom exploited the entire State in order to gratify their whims. At the same time he led the country's policy towards a non-Arab direction, made commitments to foreign powers which had harmed Syria on every occasion, and passed every internal and international measure which engendered his influence...."

The editorial then argues that it was natural on the part of the Army to condemn al-Zaim's "tyranny" after briefly describing how the new coup was undertaken, it declares in part:

"Colonel Sami Hannawi and his companions merit the thanks of Syria and of the whole Arab nation. Because they have fulfilled their promises: as soon as they overthrew the tyrant, they handed over the reins of government to the civilians."

It then feels that the only alternative for the salvation of Syria is the realization of "its Arab nationalist mission in its true sense...The end of Husni al-Zaim is a new lesson for history. It is the end of a man whose whole country surrendered itself to him but who forgot it except himself. He wanted to build a new state whose axis was to be his personality, whose aim was to be his personality, and whose end was to be his personality. He wanted to make himself an Attaturk without having Attaturk's personality...."



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In another article, the paper describes how Husni al-Zaim persecuted its chief editor when he urged him a few days after the coup d'etat to continue Syria's mission for Arab co-operation and unity. It says that when Al-Zaim's efforts to bribe it failed, he grew angry and told many people that he will kill its chief editor. The article continues:

"After the midnight of April 22, AL-HAYAT'S publisher returned to his home in Beirut and found his family waiting for him and telling him: 'A high official wished to get in touch with you by phone twenty times. He came in person several times and will return here shortly. Wait for him.' After a short while the official returned and advised him that the high authorities had learned that al-Zaim had sent four of his men to Beirut in order to kidnap him. This high official had taken the necessary measures to protect AL-HAYAT'S publisher..."

The paper then explains that when the Lebano-Syrian relations improved, al-Zaim withdrew his men but continued to prevent the sale of AL-HAYAT in Damascus by threatening those selling it with imprisonment.

According to AL-HAYAT the Lebanese Government regards the new coup in Syria as a purely internal issue. It adds that a semi-official source has told its special correspondent that

"The handing over of the government to the civilian authorities in Syria is an excellent gesture which is welcomed in Lebanon. Lebanon hopes for stability in Syria because it is strongly tied to Syria and its government has not been able to co-ordinate its policy with that of al-Zaim because of its rapid changes. It could be said however, that the Syrian army this time undertook an actual reforms coup which has not been exploited by the greedy."

The paper also states that the Qawmis in Lebanon are particularly pleased with the way Husni al-Zaim met his end, some of whom have made bonfires and tolled bells in celebration of this event.

#### AL-'ANAL

which is full of reports about the present developments in Syria writes that "the news of the second Syrian coup came as an unexpected surprise to Lebanon. The official quarters have received it with reserve. The responsible officials are refusing to make any comment on the events in Syria."

In its editorial, the paper wonders what is behind the new Syrian coup but refrains from passing any opinion on it in view of its suddenness. It points out that because of the many "elements, considerations, ties and common interests existing between Lebanon and Syria, the Lebanese must follow the trends of events in Syria closely but without interfering with what does not concern us."

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In its second editorial, the paper dwells on the "praiseworthy" efforts of the opposition to bring all the various opposition elements together. In expressing its willingness to join the opposition, the editorial firstly demands that

"all the forces should be united in following a joint action and in formulating an unequivocal program to be agreed upon before any step is taken. If these two conditions are observed, we will be in the vanguard. Otherwise, we have our own special means and methods which were useful in the past and which will be useful today and tomorrow."

#### AN-NAHAR

reproduces, with the following introduction, an editorial its chief editor wrote on April 5, 1949 in which he warned Husni al-Zaim to fulfil his promises for reforms, otherwise those who entrusted him with the powers to undertake the reforms will turn against him:

"If we were like those who believe in fate we would have said that Husni al-Zaim's coup was not destined to last more than the four months in the shadow of which Syria lived. But we believe that history has a law and that the development of events take place by dint of factors and elements based on logic and order. Husni al-Zaim's coup bore, within itself, the germs of its undoing. Because it was the end for which for which it was effected and by which its means were justified; and because, on the other hand, it paved the way to this undoing by establishing a precedent which permitted its overthrow.

"We can not, in welcoming the new coup and hailing its hero, but wish that he will benefit from the example he is giving to the others, so that his fate will be different from those who did not heed the warnings. It pleases us to note that the signs indicate that the deeds this time will be consistent with the intentions. We hope we will not be required to direct to the new Syrian authorities the words we addressed to their predecessors, the soundness of which have been proved by events/

#### AL-HADAF

Calling Damascus "the immortal city.....which God has chosen as the source of everlasting awakening for the Arabs" the paper's editorial states that as soon as Damascus observed "that the regime of the coup began to deviate from the goal for which it was undertaken, it woke up to a new coup which carries death and severe punishment to those who abused the trust, who became intoxicated with positions, and who almost brought the country to ruin and hurled it into the lap of a future which will never xxxxx



good will come from the men who have been asked to shoulder the responsibilities. We can expect them to take a step which will embody the hope of the Arabs everywhere. This hope is unity, solidarity and uprooting the tree of isolation which ~~endeavors~~ endeavors to thrive by killing the aspirations which are nursed by the Arab youths and by the coming generations. March forward, Oh Damascus! The hearts of Millions of people are guarding you and blessing your strides."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

August 17, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on August 17, 1949.

BEIRUT

writes that the second coup in Damascus has ended in the way the first coup should have ended because the heroes of the second coup have already handed over the government to the statesmen and have retreated to their barracks. Continuing, the paper declares:

"In expressing our pleasure with this wise gesture, we look at Syria and find it floundering in an economic crisis which is suffered by all the Arab countries; and in a spiritual crisis which has scattered its people into groups, parties and blocs. Therefore, the interval is critical - highly critical - and calls for courage and determination and audacity and foresight. It calls for the mobilisation of good will and spiritual forces. These have been mobilized, as much as possible, through the present national cabinet for overcoming the two internal crises and restoring harmony and brotherhood between Syria and all the Arab states - these relations were so gravely disturbed recently that we grew apprehensive and feared their consequences.

Stating that the new Syrian leaders appreciate the difficulties now confronting them internally and externally, the editorial exhorts them to work unitedly in order to save Syria from anarchy, from fear and from the influence of the army so that it may return to the Arab League to fulfil its Arab mission and co-operate with the other Arab countries. The editorial then concludes:

"The Arab world is closely watching the steps of the new regime in Syria and reminds its leaders to continue their solidarity and unity if they wish to write an immortal page in the history of Syria. However peaceful the outcome of coups d'etat might be, they inspire neither confidence nor tranquility. Syria and the Arab world greatly need confidence and tranquility. They also urgently need earnest action to overcome the peril of the Israeli state and of the economic and spiritual crises raging in them..."

AL-HAYAT

says that it did not censure Husni al-Zaim for his autocracy, which might sometimes be more fruitful than democracy, particularly if it has to pass through phases fraught with hardships, but his behavior frustrated all the hopes that were pinned on him for reforming Syria. Instead of fulfilling his promises "Husni al-Zaim indulged in pleasures, divorced the hardy military life and led a life of comfort and luxury. He confined all his efforts to deifying himself and imposing his will." The editorial then compares Husni al-Zaim with Aaral taturk and emerges with the conclusion that

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"autocracy lost its mission during Husni al-Zaim's regime. With its loss he lost the cause of his existence. If al-Zaim had acted properly and if he had implemented one-tenth of the mighty reforms he promised, the people would have kept silent and would have excused him. But to forget all about the country, to spend his days and nights at bars and green tables, to use one million liras for furnishing his house and a similar sum for jewelries, to leave the country in the grip of nonentities whose only qualification for government arose from their relationship to his family, is a sin which time can not tolerate for long. Autocracy is acceptable when it has a mission for the welfare of the people. It might be desirable under the present conditions of the Arab countries.... Blessed is Damascus which has given this lesson to the Arabs!"

#### AL-'AMAL

While conscious of the magnitude of the events that are unfolding in Syria, the paper declares that the Lebanese government and people would have been more deeply concerned with these events were it not for the fact that they are purely internal. However, it feels that the present signs indicate, "despite some of the accusations the leaders of the new coup have made against Marshal Husni al-Zaim's foreign policy, that the new coup is due to purely internal considerations. The Marshal's government drove away the party leaders and influential personalities who supported the first coup. He also tried to keep away the heroes of the first coup and the companions who firstly shared his ideas. It was therefore natural that all these strong elements should come together in a decisive reactive move.

"Neither we nor others have the right to point out what is good for Syria. The Syrians themselves have demonstrated in many instances great political maturity and complete understanding of events. They know better what is good or bad for them.

"Moreover, the leaders who have taken over the reins of government are distinguished Syrians. It is sufficient to realize that the new Cabinet is headed by an ex-President of the Republic who is known for his true patriotism, for his loyalty, for his staidness and for his self-denial. The formation of the new Cabinet by this venerable personality is enough to bring tranquility to the hearts of the Syrians and to re-assure us about the fate of our dear neighbor.

"In expressing our wishes for Syria, we hope that the new coup will complement the first coup from the urbanizing and civilizing standpoint. We trust that the forward drive will be the motto of all and that no one will succumb under the influence of social retrogression through the urge of popular claims...

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"We trust that Syria will in future keep its gallant army away from politics.....We trust that the statesmen will be honest and high-principled so that they might not embarrass the army to interfere.... The political atmosphere in Syria must be charged with a true democratic spirit...."

#### TELAGRAPH

In defining its attitude toward Husni al-Zaim's government, this paper states that it assumed a clear stand toward the Syrian "dictatorship" when it opposed it with full vigor and courage at a time when those who pretended to be nationalists rushed with their censures to glorify totalitarianism and terrorism. It adds that Husni al-Zaim banned its entry into Syria and even wrote to the Lebanese Foreign Office demanding that TELAGRAPH be prosecuted. The paper regards the fate of the "dictator" Husni al-Zaim and his companions as an eloquent lesson for the Syrians and for every one who may be tempted to follow Hitlerite methods of government. It therefore calls upon the Syrian people to prevent the resurgence of any dictatorship in the future and says that the Syrian army would do well to hand over the fate of its country to the statesmen, to keep to its barracks, and to refrain from interfering in politics. The paper then concludes:

"On this occasion, we raise our voice to the ears of the new Syrian government which has saved Syria and Lebanon from the terror of the former regime, and ask it to hasten to restore the democratic and republican system with full liberties, to release democratic freedoms, and to set free the liberal strugglers whom Husni al-Zaim has persecuted and hurled into the dungeons.

"We send our Syrian brethren the compliments of the free sons of this sister and loving country and ask them to unite themselves so that they might cooperate with the new government for realizing liberties and restoring the republican system immediately.

"Long live the Syrian and the Lebanese republics in unity and brotherhood."

#### AN-NAHAR

celebrates its seventeenth birthday anniversary by publishing ~~an~~ an eight-page issue full of articles on patriotism and liberty, most of which are reproductions of past editorials "in order to give the new generation an idea of this paper's struggle for the various phases through which the Arab cause in general and the Lebanese cause particularly have passed." The paper also carries words of praise contributed by Salah Labaki, titled THE ROLE OF THE PRESS IN BUILDING NATIONS AND THE ROLE OF THE YOUTHS IN DIRECTING THE PRESS; by Muhyiddin an-Nasuli (of BEIRUT) titled AN-NAHAR'S ANNIVERSARY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THOUGHT. IT HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE BUILDING OF THIS AN-NAHAR; and by Camille SCALE OF LOGIC IN THE LEBANESE PRESS; and by Camille

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Shamun (of SAUF AL-NHAR) titled WHEN JIBRAN TWAINI'S NEWSPAPER WAS THE PLATFORM OF THE PRESENT RULERS.

#### AD-DIYAR

carries a long despatch its Chief Editor, Hanna Ghosn, has sent it from Damascus covering the events which preceded and followed the new coup there. Hanna Ghosn recalls his first difficulties with Husni al-Zaim and strongly emphasizes the accusations the men of the new coup have levelled against him. Although he passes no opinion on the merits of the new coup he has no kind word to say about Husni al-Zaim.

#### AR-RUMNAD

feels that the new coup has liberated Syria from Husni al-Zaim who demonstrated that "he undertook the coup because of his greed for government. We saw him in his first and last hours, surrendering himself to the storms of ambition. He was enslaved by his anger and frightened by his hate against the honest and the sincere. He hurled them into the prisons not for any crime but because of his fear of their ghosts which teemed around his chair and over his bed... The Arabs heard al-Zaim singing the praises of the Syrian army because it was able to confront the two gallant Arab armies: The Transjordanian and the Iraqi armies. We never heard him boasting of the greatness of this army and of its readiness to stand in the face of the common enemy who is arrogantly standing at the gates of the Arabs....Husni al-Zaim ended where a new phase has begun in Syria, a phase flooded with the rays of hope...."

This paper which refers to the late Husni al-Zaim as "the tyrant" expressed the opinion in another editorial that the formation of the government in Syria by al-Atasi will help the Lebanese-Syrian relations resume their normal course.

#### AL-ITTIHAD AL-LUBNANI

While this journal is reluctant to pass any opinion on the present situation in Syria, it says that it is inclined to believe that Husni al-Zaim combined goodness and badness although his bent for reforms and good deeds was strong. It adds that the subordination of his mind to his emotions and his reluctance to accept the advice of others caused his assistants to harbor evil towards him. But it wonders at the same time whether this was sufficient justification for their behavior. With regards to the charges that al-Zaim "corrupted the regime, accepted bribes and violated the rights of the nation" the paper says that these charges can not be accepted on their face value because they need impartial investigation. Finally, it feels "that time alone will judge this step of the second coup in Syria: whether it

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SANT AL-AHRAR

does not want to comment on the second Syrian coup because it says this is a purely internal matter on which it should not express any opinion, despite the fact that because of its economic partnership with Syria, Lebanon is susceptible to every development in that country. Nevertheless, it hopes that the coup will be for the good of Syria "although it is claimed in certain quarters that its results will be the absorption of Syria into a project they have prepared a long time ago and they have been trying to realize by seizing opportunities and circumstances.... We sincerely hope that the situation will be stabilized in Syria and that the government which took over the administration yesterday, will be able to bring about tranquility and realize the country's aspirations for sovereignty and independence."



AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

August 18, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on August 18, 1949.

BEIRUT

refers to a statement a religious leader has made while eulogizing an emigre at a memorial service held in Bsharri that the emigres live free while the residents live as slaves in their homeland Lebanon. This statement, the editorial states, was challenged by the representative of the President of the Republic who was present at the service. He said that there was no sign of slavery on the foreheads of those present and that the resident Lebanese, like the emigres, have been born free and have struggled for and fully enjoy liberty in the present era of independence.

In commenting on the above, the editorial complains that two deputies withdrew from the session of the Chamber of Deputies held two days ago because their interpolations regarding public liberties were rejected by the Chamber. It also points out the Government's ill-treatment of newspaper publishers and states that the Lebanese people have not forgotten the ill-fated May 25, 1947 when the parliamentary elections were falsified. It then continues:

"We admit that there is no slave market in Lebanon and there are no signs of bondage on the foreheads of the people. But we must also admit that we are, in Lebanon, still slaves to our greed; slaves to our egoism and selfishness; slaves to our environment; slaves to poverty, ignorance, disease and fear; and slaves to the ruthlessness which is prevailing in this interval. Therefore, if a Lebanese says that we are slaves we must wake up to our reality and be aware of the heavy responsibilities devolving on us....You say that the people must liberate themselves by themselves. We tell you: Give these people a chance to liberate themselves. Start by respecting public liberties: Dissolve this Parliament, abolish the press censorship and do not imprison newspaper publishers before trying them. Then seek the people's views on their present and future in a free atmosphere to be supervised by honest men who enjoy the people's confidence and respect."

AL-HAYAT

starting with the premise that Syria is the axis of the Fertile Crescent area, the editorial states that

"because of its exceptional geographical position, Syria is the link between the Fertile Crescent countries since it has common frontiers with Lebanon, Iraq, Transjordan and Palestine and since it enjoys strong influence in Egypt and

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Saudi Arabia. Moreover, its republican system frees it from considerations which restrict the movements of the other states. Therefore, no Arab state can bear the Arab mission save Syria. No other Arab country loses the cause of its existence and gets choked by the Sykes-Picot boundaries more than Syria.

"During the mandate, the Syrian leaders bore the Arab mission. They were the heroes of the Arab cause from the time of the ~~its~~ birth shortly before the first world war. But with the advent of the era of independence, a new logic overwhelmed the rulers of that country. They therefore delayed Syria's Arab mission with a logic which might have been plausible. But this logic was used for promoting selfish interests and greed for power. Then came Husni al-Saim who intentionally submerged everything Arab. He permitted co-operation even with the Jews for the sake of placating certain powers to strengthen his personal influence in foreign relations after his influence had weakened internally.

"But now that the nightmare has been removed and the government reins ~~ate~~ taken over by the leaders of the Arab cause, the Arabs pin great hopes on the new government and expect good to come out of it, which was lacking in others."

#### AL-'AMAL

strongly attacks the Chamber of Deputies for having refused to debate the interpolations of Camille Shamun and Kamal Jumblat. It says with Deputy Khalil Abu Jawda, who protested against the Chamber's measure, that there is no meaning in the existence of a Chamber which restricts freedom of speech and chokes debates.

This paper has recently been carrying brief articles calling upon the Iraq Petroleum Company to stop ill-treating its Lebanese employees. Today, the paper devotes an editorial to the subject. It reminds the Company that Lebanon has welcomed it, together with other foreign companies, to operate on the basis of safeguarding the national honor and benefitting the people to the limit. Among the complaints against the I.P.C. are the following: Lebanese employees are being dismissed for trivial and ridiculous reasons; many Lebanese employees do not occupy the positions which are due to them in a guest company; there is a spirit which causes the employees to feel that the I.P.C. atmosphere is charged with hate towards them and with neglect of their rights and interests. Stating that it places Lebanese interests above all else and that it loves the Lebanese firstly and Lebanon's neighbors secondly, the paper explains that it has never urged the dismissal of Palestinian employees from the Company. In point of fact, it adds, it has always recommended that they should be helped in their present difficulties. But, it goes on to say

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for us to accept, that some of the senior Palestinian employees should endeavor to poison the Company's atmosphere from the Lebanese standpoint as is the case today. The Company's neglect of the existing conditions can be interpreted as complicity with evil and wrongdoing. Such an interpretation is neither in the Company's interests nor in the interests of the policy directing it. We believe that it is time for the Government to intervene because the situation can no longer be tolerated."

#### AN-NAHAR

severely criticizes the Chamber of Deputies for refusing to debate the interpolations of Camille Shamun and Kamal Jumblat and blasts that the Chamber has demonstrated that it is conspiring against the democratic system and against the freedom of speech and thought.

#### AD-DIYAR

In trying to determine the political leanings of the various elements which comprise the present Syrian administration, the paper says that they generally advocate the Arab unity idea. This being the case, it wonders "inasmuch as the Arabs, because of the Palestine calamity, yearn for the creation of an Arab state, whether the new leaders in Damascus would take part in the formation of this state. Iraq extends its hand across the Euphrates to you in Damascus. Will you extend your hand?"

#### AL-HADAF

In referring to the second coup in Damascus, this editorial says that the coup is, in fact, being shared in spirit by every Arab country which bears similar responsibilities to those of Damascus in their capacity as partners in the cause for which so much blood is shed. Stating that the other Arab countries have not taken steps like those of Damascus because of their internal and external circumstances, the paper explains that this does not mean that they are resigned to their present humiliating position. "All the Arab peoples seek unity...The only alternative open to them is this unity. It is therefore better for those who are planting thorns in the way to disappear from the field....for no obstacle will hinder Arab unity.....We frankly tell the government leaders in Baghdad that their presence in the administration in these bloody and critical circumstances raises fears and obstructs the progress of the caravan. We frankly tell them that the Arab nation expects them to make voluntary sacrifices and to give a chance to those who bear the unity mission, before other voices may be raised from another Arab country. In sending this appeal to Baghdad, the Arab people realize that this appeal is addressed to others also. They wish these "others" to listen and to shatter the chains voluntarily before they will be shattered by others and before these hands sweep away - while they are on their way to the "meeting" - all the obstacles blocking this road."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

August 19, 1949.

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
Appearing on August 19, 1949.

BEIRUT

welcomes the Seminar on Social Affairs now being held in Beirut in which all the Arab states are taking part "under the auspices of the United Nations Organization. Whatever may be said about this ideal organization, it will work for peace, brotherhood, goodness, love, beauty and right in the world. If it will not succeed in reaching its goal now, it will do so in the near or distant future." In urging the Arabs to follow the social projects which have been successful in England and the United States, the editorial wonders "whether the Arabs will emerge from the Seminar with practical solutions for all our problems, so that the Arab nation and the Arab peoples will be strong in body, keen in mind and sound in spirit. This is our hope and this is what we covet. Because when we solve our social problems, which are eating away the body of the Arab nation and the Arab peoples, the spiritual and material crisis which is storming us at the present time will disappear and we will be able to stand on our feet and face the future with confidence and tranquility."

Amir Adil Arslan, Foreign Minister in Husni al-Zaim's regime, has sent the following letter to BEIRUT:

"You published today a general despatch from London concerning the TIMES' comment on Husni al-Zaim's policy and the causes of the new Syrian coup in a vague sentence which I must inevitably correct. The TIMES said: 'When he threw himself into Egypt's lap, he lost the services of Adil Arslan his Foreign Minister et cetera.' The causes of the differences between Husni al-Zaim and myself were many including those which related to his terroristic and wanton internal policy and to his foreign policy which almost involved Syria in fearful intrigues.

"In his rapprochement with Egypt, he followed unfamiliar and unsound methods such as delegating for that purpose irresponsible persons who should not have represented Syria in discussions with the King of Egypt or with his Government. But he did not throw himself into Egypt's lap, except outwardly. He attempted a policy which was inconsistent with Egypt's policy on the Palestine question. He ended, in the recent period, with a policy whose source was far removed from Egypt.

"There is another point in the TIMES, i/e., its supposition that I represent a sectarian policy which is non-existent. If this policy exists, then I have nothing to do with it."

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AL-HAYAT

draws the attention of the Arab countries to a "brief" report it published two days ago which has been forgotten under the pressure of the Syrian events and which deeply concerns every Arab. This report, the editorial explains, is the war preparations bill the Tel Aviv Government has submitted to the Israeli Parliament. The paper regards this bill as an offensive measure intended against the Arab countries. It therefore hopes that the "gentlemen" who will shortly go to Alexandria have read and scrutinized the report. If they neglect it, we see no reason for their meeting. It will then be better for them to go to the summer resorts instead of bearing the hardships of travelling and meeting." The editorial then declares in part:

"We must surround the Israeli state with an iron wall. This can be attained only by a military union of the Arab armies. This union failed last year and brought to every army calamities the consequences of which might be suffered by the Arabs for a century or centuries. If this union will not be realized in view of self-interests and ambitions, the Arabs will witness a new Jewish expansion which will exhaust their forces and swallow up their countries.

"Oh gentlemen who are going to Alexandria! The question of military co-operation between the Arab states is a vital necessity for every one of them.....It is the irony of fate that the Jews should decide to turn their state into a fortress during the week in which the Arab rulers have decided to meet in Alexandria to expose their differences and disagreements to the world.

"Wake up. We are facing a sleepless enemy. He has turned Palestine into a point for attack. So long as it remains in his hand we will have neither peace nor tranquility. With regard to the great powers headed by the United States which want us to conclude peace with this enemy, their purpose is no more than serving the Jewish state at our expense in time of peace just as they served it in time of war. Their attempts to split up the Arab front by exploiting Husni al-Zaim's madness for contacting the Jews is a glowing example of their criminal intentions."

(AL-HAYAT publishes the second instalment of a series of interviews Adil Arslan, Foreign Minister in Husni al-Zaim's government, is giving to its correspondent on al-Zaim's attempts to contact the Israeli Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and on his (Adil's) opposition to this move - translator).



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AN-NAHAR

reports the arrival of Fadhil Jamali in Beirut yesterday who is on his way to Alexandria to attend the Arab League's Political Committee's meeting which has been delayed upon the request of the Egyptian Government. Foreign Minister Fadhil Jamali called on Premier as-Solh yesterday. In this connection, the paper understands that the Iraqi Foreign Minister's visit to Beirut before the convocation of the Political Committee is for the purpose of persuading the Lebanese Government to adopt Iraq's proposals for modifying the League's pact and internal regulations.

TELEGRAPH

writes in connection with the second Syrian coup that "We do not want to follow the middlemen of propaganda and the 'agents charged with missions' who wish to exploit the coup for hidden political aims, such as realizing the Fertile Crescent or the Greater Syria project and paving the way for a system of government unacceptable to the people. We believe in the republican system of government as a vital necessity for the progress of the Syrian and the Lebanese peoples as well as for all the Arab states." The editorial then appeals to the present Syrian authorities to restore the republican system and public liberties as soon as possible and charges "that those who dream of the 'advantages' of autocracy are men who fear the people and their will...."

AL-HADAF

In expressing pleasure with the way Husni al-Zaim has met his end, the paper welcomes the new authorities in Syria and wishes to tell al-Atasi and his companions that

"The eyes of those working in the field of the great Arab cause and the eyes of these torn peoples are all focused on them in these circumstances which they want to call decisive and in which they want to see an end to the night in the darkness of which they are still groping. The reason why these peoples and their free leaders are turning toward Syria is due to the fact that what Syria can accomplish can not be done by any other Arab state...."

AD-DIYAR

writes that the Arab nationalists are reproaching the Iraqi Government for its complete neutrality toward the question of Syria's and Iraq's unity and says that the disadvantages of this neutrality became apparent during the early stages of the first coup when Premier Nuri as-Said announced that the Syrian people alone should express their wish and that he was waiting for them to express this wish. The paper then complains that Nuri as-Said was certainly aware that the Syrian people were gagged by a "horrible dictatorship" and thus they were unable to express their wishes. The paper then reminds Nuri as-Said



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that the Syrian people still feel that Syria is an indivisible part of the Arab nation and still hold their allegiance to King Faisal the First. Therefore, it calls upon the Iraqi Government to announce its aims on the subject of Arab unity without shame or fear. It asks, "Has the Iraqi Government told the Iraq and the Syrian peoples that the two countries are branches of one trunk and that the King of Iraq is still the King of Syria? What has the Iraqi Government done to realize these aims? We hope that Fadhil Jamali, the Iraqi Foreign Minister will convey this message, the message of the nationalists in every Arab country, to his Government. It is our hope that the Iraqi Government will remove the veil of shyness and shame, will abandon its neutrality, and will enter the field of national endeavor with its proclaimed aims."

AD-DIYAR feels that the real purpose of the Iraqi Foreign Minister's visit to Beirut is to study the Syrian situation at close range. It then adds that it can not be said that Baghdad does not pin great hopes on the recent Syrian coup.

#### ASH-SHARQ

wishes to explain that it first supported Husni al-Zaim but when he deviated from his proclaimed policy, it did not hesitate to sever the strong personal relations which ties its publisher to al-Zaim. It continues:

"We supported the first coup when it fought the Fertile Crescent and the Greater Syria projects. We opposed al-Zaim when he wanted to drag Syria to worse projects. We supported him when he promised to avenge the honor of the Arabs and to stand in the face of the Zionists. But we fought him when he proceeded to dishonor Syria vis-a-vis the Zionists in accordance with the dictates of American policy...."

This paper publishes a long despatch from its special correspondent in Damascus in which he writes that Husni al-Zaim encouraged Antun Sa'ada to revolt against the Lebanese government and then handed him over to that government when he found that Sa'ada's movement was ineffective. The burden of the correspondent's despatch is that al-Zaim's first complicity with Sa'ada was for the purpose of implementing "the American project." The correspondent explains this project as follows:

"Undoubtedly, Husni al-Zaim maintained firm relations with American quarters. America did its utmost to impede the Greater Syria project - a British project; and the Fertile Crescent project - advocated by Nuri as-Said. The American project, according to a statement made to me by an ex-Lebanese Premier, envisages the annexation of four qadhas in Lebanon to Syria and the creation of a Christian state in Lebanon provided that Husni al-Zaim will give Alexandrette to Turkey in lieu of the Lebanese territories."

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KUL SHAI'S

London correspondent writes that the British official quarters feel that the new coup in Syria has come as the first result of the conference the British representatives to the Middle East have recently held in London. He then comments: "This does not mean that the British plotted the coup but it does not also mean that they are strangers to it. At any rate, the coup is consistent with the policy the British have formulated for the Middle East..."

Sa'id Sarbiya, one of the publishers of this paper, covers the Syria situation in a long despatch written in Damascus in which he levels every possible accusation against Husni al-Zaim. Al-Zaim wanted to meet Ben Gurion but the latter refused; al-Zaim offered France military bases in Syria; al-Zaim intended to create a Foreign Legion for his personal protection; he ordered the construction of a concentration camp in the middle of the desert for interning nationalists; he obliged army officers to take their wives to parties; he instructed a nightclub to contract with seventy artists for entertaining large parties; he drank until the small hours. Moreover, the paper continues, al-Zaim advocated nudism; he was anti-Arab; he imposed oppressive taxes; the ulemas (religious leaders) were disgusted with his immoral behavior; these ulemas had decided to murder him; he surrounded himself by Kurds, Circassians, Assyrians as well as by pro-French and pro-American elements and made them his fifth column; he invited Antun Sa'ada to Damascus, encouraged him to revolt against Lebanon and then arrested and handed him over to the Lebanese Government. The paper then makes many other charges against Husni al-Zaim and says in parenthesis that the people in Damascus first approached the British to save Syria from this "tyrant" and convinced them that American hands played a prominent role in the first coup. But the British replied "wait and see." The paper could no longer bear the situation and they ultimately executed al-Zaim. With regard to the role played by the British, the paper comments, "no one believes that it was restricted to their 'wait and see'"/

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

August 20, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press  
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BEIRUT

In referring to the postponement of the Political Committee's meeting upon the request of the Egyptian Government, this paper is not concerned with the postponement but wishes to remind the Arabs that the interval through which they are now passing is highly critical. This interval, it continues, demands that the Committee meet to study the Arab problems with an impartial spirit to overcome their differences and to settle the Palestine questions chief among which are the repatriation of the refugees, the future of Jerusalem, the establishment of permanent boundaries between Israel and the Arab countries and the creation of a united front for checking Jewish expansionist ambitions which are threatening the very existence of the Arabs. The paper attributes the failure of the Arabs and their League in solving the Palestine problem to their lack of frankness, to their insincerity and to their suspicion of one another. It continues:

"We hope that the Arab leaders will attend the Political Committee at the end of this month with a new spirit, a new mind, and a sound logic and with hopes consistent with the aspirations of the Arab peoples for unity and co-operation before time overtakes them and before internal and external events take them unawares."

In conclusion, the paper repeats its warning that if the Arab leaders refuse to be completely frank in the Political Committee, it would be better for them not to meet so that the Arab peoples might decide their final destiny themselves."

Under the headline "Interest in Eastern Affairs Shifts from London to Washington: Mr. Pinkerton has Left" this paper publishes a short newsitem in which its correspondent writes that

"The American Minister has left Beirut not only on leave of absence but he received a telegram from his Government instructing him to proceed to America for consultations on certain matters.

"Undoubtedly, these matters are strongly connected with the prevailing situation in the Middle East generally and in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine particularly. He will also resume with his government the study of the Lebano-U.S. Treaty of Friendship, Residence and Commerce."

AL-HAYAT

regrets the postponement of the Political Committee's meeting and urges that the Committee should meet at once however great the differences between the Arab countries might be. The editorial then discusses in general terms the rivalry existing between the Arab leaders and concludes:

"We advocate joint co-operation among all the Arab League countries. We regard such co-operation as our present ideal. If the Alexandria meeting would attain this ideal, we would be the happiest people. But if emotion should overcome our minds, then there would be nothing to prevent the Arabs from strengthening their regional co-operation within the League's framework on the basis of the geographical-political exigencies..."

AL-'ALAM

welcomes the efforts of the various opposition elements to work together for the welfare of the state but observes:

"So long as the opposition complains of the absence of democratic methods in this country which is regarded democratic and so long as the appropriate authorities do not belie this claim by coming forward to realize the nation's demands, the committees of the parties' front must decide upon the legitimate measures it contemplates adopting for reaching its goal."